

# ON THE HORIZON



**“Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; but they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.”**

**Isaiah 40:30-31**

## A Letter From The Pastor

BY JOHN STRADER

As the clock strikes midnight and we ring in the new year, it's a time for celebration, reflection, and renewal. But as Christians, there's an extra layer of meaning to this annual tradition. So as we set our sights on the year ahead, let's take a moment to consider what it means to approach the new year from a biblical perspective. New Year's is a time to give thanks to God for His faithfulness and blessings in the past year. It's an opportunity to look back and see how God has been at work in our lives and the world around us. This can be a time of great joy and gratitude as we remember all that God has done for us.

But New Year's is also a time to look forward and set new goals and resolutions. As believers, this can include things like reading the Bible more, pray-

ing more consistently, serving at church or in the community, and sharing the love of Jesus with others. It's a chance to commit to growing closer to God and becoming more like Him in thought, word, and deed.

This isn't just about making personal resolutions, though. New Year's can also be a time to pray for the world and consider how we can be part of God's work in the world. We can pray for peace, for the persecuted church, for the salvation of those who do not yet know Jesus. We can also consider how we can use our time, talents, and resources to make a difference in the lives of others.

As we enter the new year, let's seek to make God the center of all that we do and trust in His plans for us. He knows the path ahead and He will guide and direct our steps if we seek Him. So let's embrace this new year with hope and expectation, knowing that God has great things in store for us as we follow Him.

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# CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRIES

## *Sunday Funday*

THEME: Think Tank; Put your knowledge to the test

In January, our theme will be “Think tank; Put your knowledge to the test.” The children will learn that all knowledge ultimately comes from God—and each day is a chance to learn something new so you can be better at whatever you do. Their monthly memory verse is “The Lord gives wisdom. Knowledge and understanding come from his mouth.” Proverbs 2:6.



## *Soul'd Out Youth*

Soul'd Out Youth starts back for the new year on January 4th! Our youth have plans to attend Interfaith service day on Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

They are currently studying *The Good Life* by Dr. Derwin Gray, a study on how true happiness comes from a heart directed towards the kingdom of God and satisfied in Jesus the King. They will wrap it up in January and begin a new study.



## *Awana Club Wednesdays!*

Awana Club is every Wednesday from 6:30 to 8:00 PM. We are so excited to have so many children learning about Jesus each week and digging more into God's word together! We had such a fun month of December celebrating the birth of our Lord & Savior! We're back for a wonderful start to the new year on January 4th! Some fun upcoming theme nights to remember: January 11th is triple points night, January 18th is crazy hat night, and January 25th is frito pie night!





# ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Joining a Sunday school class is a wonderful way to create deeper connections with our fellow church family but to also dive deeper into God's word. These smaller, intentional groups allow us to be vulnerable with one another and often turn into strong friendships who encourage us on our walks with Christ. We encourage you, if you are not already plugged into one, please feel free to visit any one of our classes until you find the right fit for you. These classes are huge blessings and allow us to lean on one another for wisdom, Godly fellowship, and friendship as we all strengthen our relationship with the Lord and gain more knowledge of His amazing word.

## ***The Strong Family***

The Strong Family class will be having a study called "Return to Intimacy" this January. This study will allow us to focus to prioritize keeping the passion burning within our marriages. This class is lead by Corey Waters and will focus on the challenges and concerns we face in Marriage & Parenting as Christians.

## ***Living Long & Loving It Spiritual Growth***

This is a fun-loving Sunday School Class that believes in spiritual growth with a hint of laughter along the way. It is led by Mr. Jay Porter. They make sure that everyone that walks in the door the class is made to feel at home and feel like part of the family. They even throw in an occasional social along the way. Come early and you may even get a hug to start your morning!

## ***Ladies Sunday School***

This class is lead by Ms. Lela Burgess and she would like to share some insight into her class! "This class is for women, single, widowed, never married, married now divorced, young or not as young as you used to be. We currently meet in the Cafe so there are tables where you can put your coffee and relax. We would love to have you join us. There is a lot that single women can and will do for the cause of Christ and a lot of it comes from being 'single' women. Our experiences are necessarily unique but we have a lot to offer to God and to others. Come try our class and see for yourselves." This class is currently studying the book of Isaiah, reading 3-4 chapters a week.

**All Sunday School classes are every Sunday morning at 9:30 AM**



# MEN & WOMEN MINISTRIES

## *Men's Ministry*

January is a great time to kick off the new year with a focus on Men's Ministry at Horizon Baptist Church! Men's Ministry is an important part of our church community, as it provides a space for men to come together, grow in their faith, and support one another in their walk with Jesus.

One of the main goals of Men's Ministry at Horizon Baptist Church is to help men grow in their relationship with God. This can be done through regular Bible studies, prayer meetings, and retreats that are designed specifically for men. These gatherings provide an opportunity for men to delve deep into God's Word, connect with other believers, and be challenged and encouraged in their faith.

In addition to spiritual growth, Men's Ministry at Horizon Baptist Church also provides a space for fellowship and building meaningful relationships with other men. Whether it's through group activities, service projects, or just hanging out and having fun, Men's Ministry is a great way for men to connect with one another and form lasting friendships. If you're a man looking to grow in your faith and build meaningful relationships with other believers, we encourage you to check out Men's Ministry at Horizon Baptist Church. No matter where you are in your journey with Jesus, there's a place for you here. We hope to see you at our upcoming meetups on January 8th and 22nd from 4:00-5:00 PM.

## *Women's Ministry*

The Women's Ministry meeting will be on January 9th at 4:00 PM. The Ladies Luncheon will be at Luby's in Stafford on January 9th at 11:00 am. We hope to see you there!

A fun, exciting Secret Sister will start on January 16th and we will have a reveal towards the end of April. All forms for secret sister will be available on January 2nd and will need to be turned in by Wednesday, January 12th.



# HOME GROUPS

## *Pray & Go*

Pray & Go is an outreach ministry at Horizon Baptist Church that combines the power of prayer with the opportunity to connect with our local community. Through prayer walking, we physically walk through the streets of our neighborhoods, lifting up the needs and concerns of those around us to God. Not only is prayer walking a powerful way to intercede for our community, it's also a great way to get some exercise and fulfill those new year's resolutions to be more active. As we walk and pray, we can enjoy the benefits of being outdoors and getting some fresh air, all while making a difference in the lives of those around us.

But Pray & Go is more than just a form of exercise. It's an opportunity to let our community know that we are praying for them and care about their needs. As we walk and pray, we also look for opportunities to share the love of Jesus with those we meet. Whether through a kind word, a small gift, or a listening ear, we strive to be a source of hope and encouragement to those around us.

If you're interested in joining Pray & Go and making a difference in your community through prayer and outreach, we'd love to have you! Contact Pastor John to find out more and get involved.

## *Single Women*

This home group is for single woman including widows and divorcees for spiritual growth and to develop meaningful friendships. They will continue and finish up their study on "The Magnificent Obsession" by Anna Graham. This wonderful group of women meet weekly on Friday evenings at 6:30 PM and would love for you to join! If you have any questions, you can contact Rose Bess.

## *Young Adults*

Our Young Adult Home Group is for those married, single, with young kiddos, with old kiddos, with no kiddos, and everyone in between! This group is made to encourage one another on our individual walks with Christ and learn more about God's word together! Mark your calendars for the next night of fellowship on Saturday, January 21st at 7:00 PM at Keith and Aileen Loftin's house. We will continue The Meaning of Marriage by Timothy Keller. Please contact Aileen to see if childcare is available, but if not, children are always welcome and there will be games upstairs for them to play!



# Volunteer Spotlight

## MAGGIE POTEET

Maggie has been a member of HBC for 8 years! Over the years, she has served in many areas including being a current praise team singer, Awana teacher for Puggles and now Sparks, was on the mission's committee, served with the pumpkin patch team, and was a member of our youth group! Maggie shares that she loves that HBC is her home.

When she first came to HBC, she was welcomed as a teenage girl, a baby Christian who was eager to learn more about God's character & finding Christian friendships. She gained many relationships with many of the members, meeting her mentor & having friends to keep her accountable. Maggie expresses that she is still so thankful for God giving her everyone at HBC. Then when James came to HBC, it made her even more glad that he was warmly welcomed & he grew to become saved & baptized here. She is so excited to think about when the time comes to grow her future little family & see how God will use even the little ones to come in the future at HBC! Maggie loves to cook & bake with her hubby, James. She enjoys spending time with family & friends (like having dinner, playing games, and watching shows). She also loves to sing, play pickle ball, and she shares "friendships & relationships are important to me. I do my best to be an intentional friend. If you need me, I try my best to be at your side, need a call? Hit me up. I'll be there for you." We are so thankful for our sister in Christ, Maggie!



## Horizon Family Photos



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Women's Ministry Meeting  
Sunday, January 8  
4:00 PM

Men's Ministry Meeting  
Sunday, January 8 & 22  
4:00 PM

Ladies Luncheon  
Monday, January 9  
11:00 AM

Young Adult Home Group  
Saturday, January 21  
7:00 PM

Awana  
Every Wednesday Evening  
6:30 PM